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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

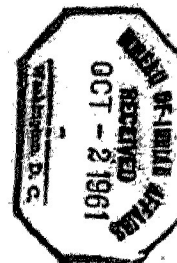
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Sacramento Area Office
P. O. Box 749
Sacramento 4, California

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Realty - Acq. & Disp.
308 - El Tejon Ranch

AIR MAIL

SEP 29 1961



Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Realty

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to our letter of July 17, 1961, and your reply of August 18, 1961 (File Ref./7442-61), concerning certain lands in Kern County, California, which were set aside for the use of the El Tejon Band of Indians by General Land Office letter dated November 18, 1916 (File Ref. 639094 "G" ORR).

After the recent determination that the withdrawal order of 1916 was still in effect, an inspection of the lands was made by a representative of this office. This disclosed that the entire 850 acres withdrawn was steep hillside grazing land of poor quality without water. The lands in Section 2 and 12, T. 11 N., R. 17 W., San Bernardino Meridian, California, have a carrying capacity of about 4 AUM and the lands in Section 26, 28, and 34 about 8 AUM. There are no Indians living on or directly adjacent to the lands.

There are three Indian families living on the Tejon Ranch lands which are a part of an old original Mexican Grant. Their suit for a "perpetual right" to occupy and use a part of this confirmed Mexican Grant was decided adversely to the U. S. Government by the Supreme Court on June 9, 1924, in the case of the United States of America v. Title Insurance and Trust Company, et al., (265 U. S. 472). These Indians are employed by the Tejon Ranch and could not make any economic use of the land under withdrawal.

362

See 7/26/55

Mr. Ramon P. Applegate, Bakersfield, California, presently the self-styled chief of the El Fajon Band of Indians, was also interviewed. He confirmed the fact that no Indians were living in the vicinity of the lands with the exception of the three above-mentioned families.

It is recommended that the Secretary of the Interior be requested to revoke the withdrawal of November 18, 1946, thereby returning the following lands to the public domain and the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management:

T. 11 N.; R. 17 W., San Bernardino Meridian,
Section 2
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Lot 5
Section 12
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 26
S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$
Section 28
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 34
E $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$

Containing approximately 880 acres.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard M. Hill

Area Director